

## Remarks/Arguments

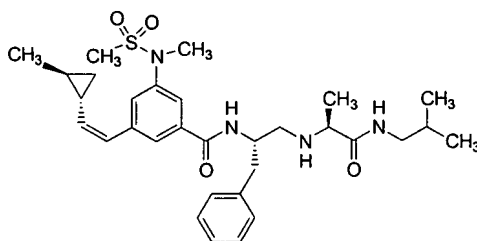
Entry of the foregoing amendments, and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claim 1 is amended to delete hydrogen from the possible R<sup>2</sup> groups. Claim 5 is amended to correct an error in the numbering of the R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> groups. Claims 13-15 are cancelled.

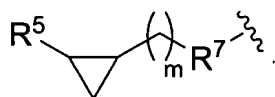
### **II. Species Election Requirement**

In the Office Action, the Examiner required election of one species for prosecution in the event that no generic claim is allowed. As noted at page 3 of the office action, applicants had previously elected compound 20:



in a telephone conference with the Examiner. Applicants now confirm the election of compound 20.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7-14 read on compound 20. Claim 1 reads on compound 20 when R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>10</sup> is isobutyl; R<sup>2</sup> is R<sup>4</sup>-S(O)<sub>p</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>) wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are methyl and p is 2; and R<sup>3</sup> is



wherein R<sup>7</sup> is -CH=CH-, m is 1 and R<sup>5</sup> is methyl.

### **II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph**

Method of treatment claims 13-15 stand rejected as lacking enablement. The Examiner states that "[t]he claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention." The Examiner also states that "[u]ndue experimentation would be required to determine which of applicants' compounds are most useful in treating Alzheimer's or the many diseases which could be embraced by inhibiting beta secretase."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that claims 13-15 are not enabled. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, claims 13-15 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 13-15 in a continuing application.

### **III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-15 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,962,934, to Warpehoski. The Examiner states that the claimed compounds overlap with Warpehoski when R<sup>1</sup> of the claims is R<sup>100</sup>, of Warpehoski (see col. 3, l. 16-48); R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> of Warpehoski are hydrogen; R<sup>4</sup> of Warpehoski is optionally substituted alkyl; and R<sup>2</sup> of Warpehoski is aralkyl. The Examiner also states that Warpehoski discloses "close compounds," and identifies N-[(2S)-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-({3-[(dipropylamino)carbonyl]-5-methylbenzoyl}amino)propyl]-L-alanyl-N-(2-methylpropyl)-L-valinamide (Example 2).

In response, independent claim 1 is amended to delete hydrogen from the potential R<sup>2</sup> groups. None of the exemplified compounds in Warpehoski contain a substitution pattern in which R<sup>2</sup> is one of the substituents (2)-(7) as recited in claim 1. Further, there is no suggestion in Warpehoski to (1) select the compound cited by the Examiner (Example 2) from all the subject matter disclosed in Warpehoski, and (2) to modify the Example 2 compound by replacing the hydrogen at the R<sup>2</sup> position by one of the R<sup>2</sup> groups recited in the amended claims. Hence, the claimed compounds are not obvious over Warpehoski.

Claims 13-15 are canceled.

In view of the action taken and arguments made, it is believed that the obviousness rejections of claims 1-12 have been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

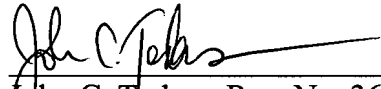
**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims 1-12 are not obvious over the cited art. Claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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John C. Todaro, Reg. No. 36,036  
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Rahway, New Jersey 07065  
Tel.: (732) 594-0125

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